

The proposed Long Island Offshore Windfarm requires numerous environmental impact studies to the areas's commercial & recreational fishermen, the natural fisheries and avian species; scenic values associated with Jones Beach; and the historic shipwrecks located in the proposed site area.

Existing studies by the National Marine Fisheries Service of the commercial fishermen are 10 years old and key Long Island communities were omitted. There are numerous commercial fishermen from Long Island and elsewhere who harvest in the proposed site area. They need to be documented through on-site ethnographic cultural research, oral interviews of licensed fishermen, and in depth data collection; issues to examine include harvesting areas, amount caught, species found during specific seasons, type of gear used, typical trawl lengths and tows, and the economic value of their harvests. The EIS should suggest mitigation scenarios that would minimize the impacts to the commercial and recreational fishermen including scale down of proposed site, economic remuneration to the commercial fishermen affected, and revised construction timetable in order to minimize interference with commercial harvesting.

Fisheries studies should examine species found throughout the year; water depths of said species; migratory patterns and seasons; reported landings data for the past 5 years and projections.

Avian studies should examine types of wildfowl found throughout the year with a seasonal timetable; hunting seasons and targeted species in the adjacent bay areas; potential impact of the turbines on migratory and year-round species; cultural analysis of wildfowl hunting traditions and potential impacts. There should be suggested mitigation measures to minimize the impact to this intangible cultural tradition.

The cultural and scenic values associated with Jones Beach and the historic shipwrecks should be assessed through historic research and interviews of park patrons.